

Online voting will determine the final winner.

Baseball players ranging from 7 to 14 wrote essays explaining how baseball helped them find the "power within" to overcome challenges on or off the field. Entrants came from within 30 miles of 20 select cities, including Tampa.

Zachary wrote about how kids at the military school he attends used to make fun of him, calling him a nerd and a dork. He said playing baseball gave him the confidence to deal with the taunting.

"Our coach, Joel, always says, 'We have to have confidence in ourselves before we have confidence on the field.' Wow, was he right. After playing baseball for a few years I have come to realize that kids made fun of me because I wasn't confident in myself. I ignored what others said but continued to be respectful to them," he wrote.

The seventh-grader at Admiral Farragut Academy said kids teased him because he's smart, but the confidence he gained on the baseball field taught him to be proud of all of his accomplishments, and that confidence changed his relationship with his classmates.

"Instead of people making fun of me, they are friends with me now. Everything has changed," he said.

Natasha Patterson said she has seen the transformation in her son.

"Now he is willing to try things that he wanted to do but wouldn't because he was picked on," she said. "He's really come out of his shell. Now he's proud of himself academically and strives to do better."

Zachary gets to help decide how the league will use the \$5,000 prize money. He said it needs a new tractor for field maintenance, clay to fill in holes in the diamonds, and chalk for lining the playing area.

If he wins the grand prize, he wants the league to install a handicapped-accessible water fountain.

"That way not just regular players can get a drink, but Challenger players, too," he said.

Azalea is one of only two Little League organizations in Pinellas County to feature a Challenger division. More than 100 special-needs children participate in the program, and one of Azalea's fields consists of a special rubber surface that allows kids to play baseball from wheelchairs.

Dana Hess, the league's treasurer, said the prize money couldn't have come at a better time.

Azalea's fields were built in 1969, and all of the structures and fences are original.

"We really need the money. We maintain what we can as good as we can, but everything is so old," Hess said.

But for those involved with the league, the excitement is not just about money.

"To have someone so young to write something from the heart really means a lot," Carol Vallee, a league volunteer and past president, said. "This is a well-deserved honor for him."

Zachary's mother said she hopes area residents will go online and vote for him, not only for his benefit but because of the good the prize money will do for the league.

"Voting for Zach not only helps children here and now; it will help children in the future," she said.

Voting began March 26 and continues through April 20.

ESSAY BY ZACHARY PATTERSON

I attend a small military school. Military school can be tough and the kids can be very mean. Confidence was my challenge in school. "Dork" and "Nerd" are words people used to call me everyday. I would get very angry and come home sad. I didn't have a lot of friends at school. I didn't understand why

people made fun of me for doing well. I never joined a sports team at school. I never did anything to draw any more attention to myself. I felt if I did, they would make fun of me more. Luckily, I have played baseball for Azalea Little League for 8 years. None of the kids at baseball go to my school. I am never made fun of while I am there. Every year my teammates become my friends. We treat each other with respect and work together as a team. Our Coach Joel always says "we have to have confidence in ourselves before we have confidence on the field". Wow, was he right! After playing baseball for a few years I have come to realize that kids made fun of me because I wasn't confident in myself. I ignored what others said but continued to be respectful to them. I remembered what Coach always says and built up confidence to join football, soccer, basketball, track and cross country. This year I even joined our school's elite baseball team. I'm the starting pitcher. Throughout time, my confidence in myself has outweighed the teasing of others. They now respect me and don't make fun of me. The kids who made fun of me in the past, now "high five" me! If I win, I'd help repair our field we play on. It needs a lot of work!

INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HONORS THE MEMORY OF TOM LANTOS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam speaker, on Monday, April 28th, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, an organization that fights against prejudice based on sexual orientation and gender expression throughout the world, announced its posthumous recognition of our late colleague Tom Lantos for his extraordinary work on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of bigotry. The IGLHRC awarded our late colleague its OUTSPOKEN Award, in recognition of "the leadership of a global ally to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community whose outspokenness . . . contributed substantially to advancing the rights and understanding of LGBTI people everywhere."

Madam Speaker, I know how well deserved this award is, because I frequently turned to our greatly respected and much missed friend for help in combating anti-LGBT prejudice whenever such matters came to my attention in various other countries. Much of the time when I came to him I found that he was already hard at work in trying to address the particular injustice because no one here did more to fight for fair treatment in this regard internationally. Drawing on his considerable prestige throughout the world, and his unmatched record as a fierce defender of human rights everywhere, Tom Lantos was an invaluable ally in our fight against prejudice.

Madam Speaker, I ask in recognition of just one aspect of the extraordinary work of this extraordinary man with whom we had the pleasure and honor of serving be printed here.

[April 28, 2008]

IGLHRC HONORS THE LATE REPRESENTATIVE TOM LANTOS

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) announced

today that it is presenting a posthumous OUTSPOKEN Award to Representative Tom Lantos, the 14-term Congressman who lost his life to cancer on February 11, 2008. IGLHRC's OUTSPOKEN Award recognizes the leadership of a global ally to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community whose outspokenness has contributed substantially to advancing the rights and understanding of LGBTI people everywhere.

"We are so deeply grateful for Representative Lantos's unwavering commitment to human rights," said Paula Ettelbrick, IGLHRC's executive director. "Throughout his life, Representative Lantos waged a steadfast fight against injustice. His voice, vision and compassion will be sorely missed by all of us in the LGBTI community."

During his fourteen terms as a member of Congress, Representative Lantos, who rose among the ranks to chair the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, was a strong and consistent voice for the rights of the disenfranchised. As the founding co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, Lantos used his prestige as an internationally respected leader on human rights to hold the very first congressional briefing about the global persecution of sexual minorities. He was the author of the International Human Rights Equality Resolution, which he introduced in the 106th and 107th Congress, condemning human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people throughout the world.

Representative Lantos regularly challenged the abuses meted out by individual countries to their LGBTI citizens. For instance, along with key congressional colleagues, he protested the arrests of allegedly gay men in the United Arab Emirates, and the stoning to death of a Nigerian gay man. He also asked Congress to "withhold any support for a U.S.-Egypt Free Trade Agreement" in light of the roundup, conviction and re-conviction of reportedly gay Egyptian men, and issued a strongly worded statement asking the Nigerian Government to consider the implications of passing the Same-Sex Prohibition Act, which would have severely compromised the rights of the LGBTI community in that country.

Congressman Lantos was also a staunch ally of LGBTI Americans. He opposed a Constitutional Amendment banning gay marriage, worked to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to sponsor their "permanent partners" for U.S. residency, and introduced a bill, with Representative Baldwin, to extend basic employment rights to same-sex partners of federal employees. He campaigned for adoption rights and marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples, and supported hate-crimes legislation and anti-discrimination protections in the workplace. This is only a small part of his astounding legacy of work in support of LGBTI rights.

Born in Budapest in 1928, Congressman Lantos was the only Holocaust survivor to serve in the United States Congress. He was a teenager when the Nazi's invaded Hungary in 1944 and started rounding up Jews. After being sent to a labor camp, and escaping twice, he returned to Budapest where he joined the resistance, lived in a safe house established by Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg and secretly distributed food to other Jews in hiding. At the war's end, he discovered that most of his own family had perished in the Nazi death camps. Miraculously, he managed to locate his childhood

friend, Annette Tillemann, whom he later married. He first came to the United States on an academic scholarship in 1947. He earned a Master's Degree in economics from the University of Washington in Seattle and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley, teaching economics at San Francisco State University for several years before being elected to Congress in 1980.

"Representative Lantos's legacy has meant so much to our community," said Ettelbrick. "We are truly grateful for his unwavering commitment to human rights. We send our deepest condolences to his wife and family, and are honored to pay tribute to his extraordinary legacy on LGBTI rights by posthumously presenting him with our OUT-SPOKEN Award."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support Concurrent Resolution 330, supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution, which urges national and community organizations, private businesses, colleges and universities to promote awareness of sexual violence and encourage strategies to decrease the incidence of sexual assault.

We have heard the frightening statistics too many times: 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape; a person in the United States is sexually assaulted every two-and-a-half minutes; one in four college-aged women has been sexually assaulted. These numbers do not even take into account the assaults that go unreported by victims too scared to notify law enforcement or too far from sexual assault victim centers.

National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is a time to educate the American public about the unacceptable extent to which this form of violence has become common in the United States. But this month must also be a time to focus on the solutions so that come next April we can instead announce statistics measuring the progress we have made in bringing an end to sexual violence.

In communities throughout the United States, women and men are working tirelessly to develop and implement innovative programs critical to the prevention and treatment of sexual assault. In Minnesota's Fourth District, Ramsey County developed the Runaway Intervention Project, which provides counseling and support for girls who have run away—or are at risk of running away—to reduce their danger of being sexual victimized. The County also reached out to men by creating the Men's Line hotline for men to call and receive guidance on practicing healthy, peaceful relationships. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, in one day, over 53,000 American men, women and children

use sexual assault services like these and others.

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, I encourage my colleagues to learn about and promote organizations in their Districts that work to prevent sexual assault, treat its survivors and prosecute its perpetrators to bring an end to this violent crisis. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and honoring those working across the country to bring an end to violence in our communities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORKS OF Nanci Burton

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of one of our notable local officials and a pioneer in public service, former Santa Rosa Mayor Nanci Burton. Mayor Burton died of cancer last month, at the age of 65, leaving a legacy of goodwill and good works throughout the area.

Nanci was the second woman to serve on the Santa Rosa City Council when she won her first election in 1984. She was elected mayor in 1986 and again in 1991. She once said she entered public life at a time when women were asked such questions as, "Sweetheart, do you really understand how a business operates?" As the bookkeeper for her husband's business, she could answer with an honest and resounding, "Yes."

Nanci started her two decades of public service on the Santa Rosa planning commission and other boards. She believed that if you want change, you have to get involved.

"She was a fierce advocate for the city, the neighborhoods and all its citizens," said Dan Galvin, a friend who served on her first election campaign. "She left her mark on projects and causes throughout the city."

Nanci was not only effective, with an impressive resume of accomplishments, but she was fun. "What many people will remember most about Burton," notes the Press Democrat editorial, "was her spirited participation in the job at hand, her hometown pride, the joy she took in her children and grandchildren—and her infectious laugh, which livened many dull meetings."

Madam Speaker, Nanci Burton was a treasure to the city of Santa Rosa and its surrounding areas. She will be greatly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF SANDY LUCAS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to honor a woman who has become a fixture in local politics in my District. Sandy Lucas is not an elected official or a paid political operative, but has become what can only be described as the voice of common sense in our community.

After graduating from the University of Arizona, with a bachelor's degree in history,

Sandy began her career in public service in 1974 as Director of the Counseling Job Corps in San Jose. In 1975, she became Director of Polydrug Abuse and Heroin Detox for Santa Clara County. By 1976, Sandy had obtained her license as a Marriage and Family Therapist. She currently serves as the Director of Family and Probate for Stanislaus County.

While Sandy's list of professional achievements is lengthy, it is her accomplishments as a volunteer on local government boards that make her the "go to" person when gauging the pulse of the community. As a member of the Modesto School Bond Committee, she worked to successfully pass much needed school bonds. She has served for 6 years on the Stanislaus County Commission on Aging, and most recently acted as a member of the Modesto City Charter Review Committee, working hard to update antiquated rules governing a city of more than 200,000.

Sandy Lucas has also been active on a statewide level with the Democratic Party. She spent several years as a California Democratic Party Regional Director, ensuring the voice of California's Central Valley was heard by party leaders.

Being heard has never been a problem for Sandy Lucas. Her quick wit, tempered reactions, and oh so colorful responses to various occurrences in our community have garnered the respect of area leaders. Sandy's training as a mediator has served her well in politics and given her the ability to see highly divisive issues from every angle, thus bringing workable solutions to the table.

On May 2, 2008, Sandy will receive the coveted Liberty Bell Award from the Stanislaus County Bar Association for all of the aforementioned reasons. Sandy has been a gem to our community, and I am honored, Madam Speaker, to have this opportunity to thank her for her selfless service and wish her the very best in continued community involvement.

A TRIBUTE TO JAN SCHORI

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jan Schori's 14 years of service as general manager of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Ms. Schori leaves a lasting legacy in Sacramento and her leadership and expertise will be deeply missed. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest public servants.

After earning her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and her law degree from the University of California, Davis, Ms. Schori has spent nearly the last three decades advocating for environmentally friendly and affordable energy in Sacramento. She began her career with SMUD in 1979 as an attorney; and spent 15 years on the utility's legal staff, five of which were as their general counsel. In February of 1994 she was appointed as SMUD's general manager. During her time with SMUD, Ms. Schori has held various other leadership positions in the utility industry. She has served as chair on the boards of the American Public